THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These proposals would be considered alongwith similar proposals received .from other State Governments after finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Funds by ADB to modernise National Highway system

1953. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions of the new loans sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank to India to modernise National Highway System;

(b) the roads and overbridges which are expanded/ constructed by this new loan; and

(c) by when the projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A US $ 240 million loan has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 20/9/2001 to the Government of India for Western Transport Corridor Tumkur-Haveri NH-4 Project. The loan repayment period is 25 years including a grace period of 5 years.

(b) The following roads and overbridges will be expanded/ constructed by this new loan:

(i) Widening of existing National Highway No. 4 to four lanes between Tumkur (km. 75) and Haveri (km. 340) excluding Sira bypass (km. 116-122).

(ii) Widening of existing bridges to 4-lanes.

(iii) Construction of 4-lane bypass at Brahmsagara, Harihar, Ranibenneur and Haveri.

(iv) Replacement of existing level crossing by 6-lane Road over bridges at Hanumanhati (km. 311) and Nelgol (km. 328).

(v) Widening of existing ROB at km. 260 (Devengere bypass).

(c) The project would substantially be completed by December 2003.

Construction of NH-53 and NH-150

1954. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of NH-53 and NH-150 in Manipur is delayed due to lack of funds to be released by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when these roads would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuing process and no target date can be indicated.

Conversion of roads in Tamil Nadu as NHs

1955. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Tamil Nadu Government for converting Hosur-Adhiaman Koltah Road, Cuddalore-Chittor Road, Chennai-Kumbakonam-Tanjavur Road, Dindigul-Theni Road and Tirunelveli-Tenkasi Road as National Highways; and

(b) if so, by when, Government arc likely to declare these roads as National Highways?